

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Mr. Kanovitch

I first met you back in April of this year. Your organization came to Warkworth Institution to perform a concert in our gymnasium. I decided to go mostly to get out of my cell as classical music held no interest for me. I was amazed at how great it turned out to be. With only three artists, each playing a different instrument, the sounds produced were amazing. I was under the impression that all classical music was the same, but each piece evoked a different emotion. I told myself after that concert that I would not immediately shun any art form based on my stereotypes.

As a direct result of your visit here, I found myself listening to music that I would normally never hear. I now watch musicals on television and even live concerts regardless of the performer or language. I took out books from our library on classical music and paintings as well as other topics formerly disregarded by my bias.

This past summer by chance, I found a show on CBC Radio called Saturday at the Opera. It was on during the afternoon at the exact same time as our yard time. I quickly found myself going outside and walking while listening to this program. Some weeks I just laid down in the grass and listened. I was hooked. While most of the Operas played are not in English, I still enjoyed the music and the description of the guests' chosen opera really helps. My favourite has been Eugene Onegin although Peter Grimes was the easiest to follow based on language. When Wagner's Lowengrin and Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg were played, I kept my Walkman on and brought it to the kitchen where I work to listen to the endings.

Yesterday you were gracious enough to return to our institution. This time, I sat down in the first row! The performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons was fantastic. I was genuinely touched that the members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra stayed and not only fielded questions, but mingled with the inmates. I can tell you that it is very rare for someone to willingly come here, let alone want to be here. The artists listened to everyone and the passion they exuded was evident.

I am so grateful to your organization's generosity. Your passion for music is evident and much appreciated. If nothing else, you have definitely made classical music something I now enjoy and wish to learn more about.

Thank you for your time and patience,

Regards,

